



Oklahoma Western Telephone Company

March 28, 2017

To: Federal Communications Commission
From: Oklahoma Western Telephone Company
Re: Forbearance Notification
WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Oklahoma Western Telephone Company (Oklahoma Western; SAC 432014) hereby notifies the FCC that it is availing itself of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order*¹ from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service.

Oklahoma Western is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that receives Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support in Oklahoma. The Company elects forbearance relief for those census blocks in its study area that are not funded under A-CAM. The Company does not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and is not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations in them. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.²

1. *Carrier Name*: Oklahoma Western Telephone Company
2. *ETC Designation Information*
 - a. *ETC Designation Order*: Oklahoma Corporation Commission; In the Matter of the Application of ALLTEL Oklahoma, Inc., et al, for Designation as Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support Pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Application of GTE Southwest, GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to the FCC Universal Service Report and Order; Application of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to the FCC Universal Service Report and Order; Cause PUD Nos. 970000522, 970000515, 970000530; Order No. 418436; December 3, 1997.

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*). In particular, the *Lifeline Modernization Order* forbore from requiring high-cost support recipients to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in areas where they are not receiving high-cost support or are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations. *Id.*, 31 FCC Rcd 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312.

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

- b. *Designating Authority:* Oklahoma Corporation Commission
 - c. *Type of Designation:* High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)
 - d. *Date of ETC Designation:* December 3, 1997
3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance:* The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains a list of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Oklahoma Western is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within the Company's ETC-designated service area that are not funded under A-CAM.
4. *Date and Reason for Change:* Oklahoma Western received its first A-CAM support payment on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, the Company no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service area that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.
5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband:* Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Oklahoma Western is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM support, the Company still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at 580-529-8000 or dean.pennello@hillcom.net if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Dean Pennello
Chief Financial Officer